

Remarks

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶ 1 as lacking both enablement and written description. The Examiner did not find Applicants' rebuttal of the enablement rejection persuasive because "the claims are not limited to polymorphic variants . . ." Page 2, ¶ 6. Similarly, the Examiner did not find Applicants' rebuttal of the written description rejection persuasive because "the claims are not drawn to either highly conserved variants or polymorphic alleles." Page 3, first full paragraph.

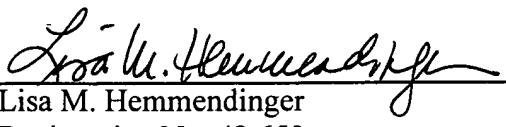
To advance prosecution, claim 1 is amended to recite that the PRC17 polypeptide comprises "the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or a polymorphic variant thereof." The specification discloses polymorphic variants of PRC17 at page 9, lines 4-5. This amendment responds specifically to issues raised in the Final Office Action. It does not add new matter and does not require a new search.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶ 1.

Respectfully submitted,
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